

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/630,407

Examiner

Melissa J. Koval

Applicant(s)

SUNAGA ET AL.

Art Unit

2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed July 11, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 24-33 (now renumbered 1-10).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 24-33 (Now renumbered 1-10) are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record neither shows nor suggests a projection optical system having all of the elements of claim 24 in combination and particularly, a first reflecting portion, a second reflecting portion and a third reflecting portion at least two of which reflecting portions are curved and each of the reflecting portions having a disposition as described in claim 24:

"wherein the first reflecting portion, the second reflecting portion and the third reflecting portion are different from one another;

a reference axis is defined as a path of a central principal ray which is a principal ray of luminous flux from the center of the original image to the center of a finally formed image projected onto the projection plane, and the reference axis on an incident side and the reference axis on an emerging side of the projection optical system are oblique to each other; and the reference axis between the second reflecting portion and the third reflecting portion intersects with the reference axis between the first reflecting portion and the projection plane."

In the remarks filed July 11, 2005, Applicant states the following:

"However, Applicants assert that new claims 24-33 are distinguishable over Akiyama, which discloses that light is reflected twice at same surface (surfaces R3 and R5). There is nothing in the newly filed claims that precludes light from being reflected

Art Unit: 2851

more than once at any of the plurality of surfaces claimed. However one of the reasons, but not the only reason, that the newly filed claims distinguish over the prior art of record is because claim 24 expressly states that "the first reflecting portion, the second reflecting portion and the third reflecting portion are different from one another". The newly filed claims and Applicant's remarks do successfully point out that this claimed structural relationship is not met by the effective regions defined by surfaces R3 and R5 of Akiyama.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melissa J. Koval whose telephone number is (571) 272-2121. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MJK

Melissa J. Korz
Melissa J. Korz